



# MOVING CERTAIN MEDICAID CLAIMS TO HIGHER FEDERAL MATCH RATE

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
STAFF: RUSSELL FRANSEN

ISSUE BRIEF

## SUMMARY

The Department of Health is pursuing two options to increase the number of Medicaid claims matched at 100% for clients who are American Indian and Alaska Native. The Department of Health should have more information on the results of its efforts by December 31, 2018.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The fiscal analyst recommends that the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee pass the following motion:

*The Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee requests the Department of Health to provide an update on the status of moving more Medicaid claims from American Indian and Alaskan Native Medicaid clients to a higher match rate by December 31, 2018. The update shall include a best guess on the outlook of potential savings.*

## DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

### **Background**

The report from the Department of Health (see <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2018/pdf/00002784.pdf>) is in response to the following motion passed by the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee at its October 18, 2017 meeting:

*The Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee requests the Department of Health to provide an update on the status of moving more Medicaid claims from American Indian and Alaskan Native Medicaid clients to a higher match rate by June 1, 2018. The update shall include a best guess on the outlook of potential savings.*

The Department of Health is pursuing two options to increase the number of Medicaid claims matched at 100% for clients who are American Indian and Alaska Native. The brief includes a discussion of each of these options below.

### **Claims From Providers With a Care Coordination Agreement with Indian Health Services Facilities**

Department of Health: "The federal government covers 100 percent of costs for services provided to [American Indian and Alaska Native] Medicaid members for services received through an IHS or Tribally-operated facility." In 2016 the federal government indicated that this 100 percent match could also apply to services provided via referrals if there was a care coordination agreement in place. The State has no power to require these agreements, but will meet with leaders from all tribes by the end of 2018 to determine tribal interest in establishing such agreements.

### **Double Check of Claims at Indian Health Services Facilities**

Department of Health: "The [Utah Department of Health] is conducting preliminary analysis to determine if there are opportunities to improve its data collection and processing of claims for [American Indian and Alaska Native] individuals to support 100 percent FMAP reimbursement of more claims that it currently allows." There may be services being provided to American Indian and Alaska Native clients at Indian Health Services facilities where a 100 percent match rate could have been claimed and is not currently

being claimed. The Department of Health will have more information about its analysis by December 31, 2018.

For more information, please see the full report by the Department of Health at see <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2018/pdf/00002784.pdf>.